

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 1, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment and following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10-13, 15, and 17-19 stand rejected. Claims 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, and 20 are objected to. Claims 7, 14, and 20 have been canceled.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Freund et al. (U.S. Patent 6,894,282) is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, and 20 were indicated as objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 7, 14, and 20 have been canceled and Claims 1, 8, and 15 respectively, have been amended to include the recitations from Claims 7, 14, and 20. Accordingly, Claims 1, 8, and 15 are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 3 depends from independent Claim 1 and Claim 10 depends from independent Claim 8. When the recitations of Claims 3 and 10 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claims 1 and 8 respectively, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 3 and 10 are likewise in condition for allowance.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, and 15 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 4-6, 11-13, and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freund et al., in view of Duclos et al. (U.S. Patent 6,298,113) is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, and 20 were indicated as objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 7, 14, and 20 have been canceled and Claims 1, 8, and 15 respectively, have been amended to include the recitations

from Claims 7, 14, and 20. Accordingly, Claims 1, 8, and 15 are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 4-6 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 4-6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 4-6 are likewise in condition for allowance.

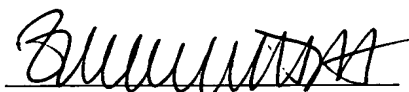
Claims 11-13 depend from independent Claim 8. When the recitations of Claims 11-13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 8, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 11-13 likewise in condition for allowance.

Claims 17-19 depend from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claims 17-19 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 17-19 likewise in condition for allowance.

For the reason set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 4-6, 11-13, and 17-19 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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